

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04151 171003Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----064158 171007Z /21
O 170940Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8455
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4151

EXDIS

LONDON FOR MOOSE, OSLO FOR MCHENRY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, RH, WA
SUBJECT: CABINET CONSIDERATION OF RHODESIAN PROPOSALS;
GAZETTING OF NAMIBIA ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL

REF: (A) PRETORIA 4133, (B) STATE 194183,

1. I ENDEAVORED THIS MORNING TO FIND OUT FROM PIK BOTHA
WHAT HAD PREVENTED THE CABINET FROM ACTING ON THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN PROPOSALS ON RHODESIA. AL HE WOULD SAY WAS
THAT THE PROPOSALS POSE "A SEVERE PROBLEM" FOR SOUTH AFRICA,
ADDING "WE CANNOT KNOCK SMITH OVER THE HEAD TO MAKE HIM AGREE."

2. COMMENTING ON HIS TRIP TO SALISBURY TOMORROW, BOTHA
SAID THAT IT WOULD BE A HOLDING ACTION. ALL HE WOULD
GIVE SMITH ABOUT THE LONDON MEETING WOULD BE A GENERAL
OUTLINE OF THE DISCUSSIONS. HIS MAJOR OBJECTIVE WILL BE
TO PERSUADE SMITH NOT TO SHOOT DOWN ANY ASPECT OF THE SETTLE-
MENT PROPOSALS BETWEEN NOW AND HIS MEETING HERE WITH VORSTER
ON AUGUST 27. BOTHA ADDED THAT HE WOULD REVIEW THE "ALTERNATIVES"
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04151 171003Z

AVAILABLE TO SMITH IF HE FAILED TO HEED THIS REQUEST.

3. I PASSED TO BOTHA THE MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTEL (B)
CONCERNING THE GAZETTING OF THE NAMIBIAN ADMINISTRATOR-
GENERAL. BOTHA RESPONDED: "I AM AFRAID THE FINAL DECISION HAS
BEEN TAKEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER." ASKED WHAT THE DECISION IS,
BOTHA REPLIED THAT JUDGE STEYN IS TO ASSUME DUTIES ON SEPTEMBER 1

AND GAZETTING WILL TAKE PLACE A WEEK BEFORE, AROUND AUGUST 23.

4. REGARDING SAG AGREEMENT ON AHTISAARI, BOTHA SAID HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE A REPLY. "IT PRESENTS SEVERE PROBLEMS," HE ADDED, "BUT BRAND FOURIE AND I ARE STILL WORKING ON IT."

5. BOTHA SEEMED TIRED AND DISCOURAGED. HE COMMENTED THAT HIS POSITION IN THE CABINET WAS "COMING INTO JEOPARDY." I TAKE IT HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES GAVE HIM A ROUGH TIME YESTERDAY.

6. WHILE IN LONDON I DISCUSSED WITH MCHENRY AND PETTERSON NEXT STEPS IN BRIEFING SOUTH AFRICANS ON RESULTS OF SWAPO TALKS IN NEW YORK. I THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE USED TO PERSUADE VORSTER TO DELAY FURTHER IN GAZETTING OF ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL. WHAT ARE CURRENT PLANS FOR INFORMING SAG OF NEW YORK TALKS? DO WE STILL WANT TO SEEK DELAY IN GAZETTING OF ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL? WE HAVE AT MOST FIVE OR SIX DAYS IN WHICH TO TRY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

7. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS THIS MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG AS WE DO NOT HAVE HIS ITINERARY HERE.
BOWDLER

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